

\* Little Olivia is four years old and is one of the "big kids" at her preschool.

\* Mom has finally started to sleep at night.

"After all this time, Daddy finally comes home, only to hear his youngest child ask, 'Are you my Daddy?'"

"For many families, reintegration is harder than the actual deployment itself. Sadly, many families fall apart during the deployment, and far too many soldiers return home divorced. For those families that have endured the trials and tribulations of separation, the arduous journey has just begun.

"Soldiers have witnessed and endured unspeakable cruelties. Their everyday life had become a series of safety checks and "trust no ones." Yet within a week of leaving the combat zone, the soldiers are back with their families with nothing more than a slap on the back and a "thank you, buddy."

"At first, everything is wonderful—the "honeymoon stage." You're just so grateful to have him back home, to have your family together again. Then comes the transition. People change over time, especially more so during a traumatic experience such as deployment. Soldiers come home to someone they feel is completely different from who they left behind. Often times, families do not recognize the person coming home to them. We have to learn how to live with another person again. In truth, it's almost as if you're learning to live with a stranger, only his face is so familiar. You have to learn to share the bed again. Even the simplest things, such as emptying the trash or remembering to put the toilet seat down can cause such a large, deep rift. The smallest misunderstandings can, and do, spiral into large disagreements and screaming matches.

"Unfortunately there are several factors hindering soldiers and families from seeking the help they so desperately need. Some do not know what options are available to them, others do not know where to go or whom to call. Some are too stubborn to realize they need help, thinking if they got through the deployment, they can get through anything.

"For those soldiers who do come forward to seek help, there is a good chance it will be held against them in their future military career. Even something as simple as going to marital counseling will be taken into consideration for security clearance. Sometimes more drastic measures, such as pushing the soldier out of military service, are taken.

"This is no way to thank our soldiers for defending and protecting our freedoms. It is time we do right by our soldiers and their families. There is no choice but to offer them the support they need not only to serve this country, but to reintegrate into their families as well.

"This is a matter of the utmost urgency, and we'd all be fools if we failed to do something about it. If we fail just one, then we have failed them all.

"It's time to do right by our soldiers . . . And that time is now."

## WELCOMING HOME THE 2ND BATTALION, 24TH MARINE REGIMENT

### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday at All State Arena in Chicago, it was my honor to participate in welcoming home some of America's most recent heroes—the brave men and women of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment—to their families, friends and a deeply grateful nation.

Following a seven-month tour in Iraq, it was a privilege to join in thanking these intrepid Marines for their service and sacrifice to our Nation. They served at the center of one of the most unstable and dangerous regions in Iraq known as the "Triangle of Death." The unit compiled an impressive service record, including the capture of more than 600 insurgents, and secured the delivery of life-saving medicine and humanitarian supplies. Those who observed that this particular unit never appeared to sleep while seemingly defending every position in the area understood why these Marines are known as the "Mad Ghosts."

The reunion I attended at All State Arena was filled nearly to capacity with proud Illinoisans awaiting their loved ones. Welcoming them home, however, was incomplete as thirteen Marines of the 2nd Battalion did not return to their families. This void is a solemn reminder of the unit's sacrifice to fight for democracy in Iraq.

I look forward to the day when all of the men and women of our Armed Forces return home to the same kind of warm reception that the 2nd Battalion received this past Saturday. Until that day, we will continue to commit our complete and unwavering support to our troops as they continue fighting for liberty and to preserve today's fragile democracy in Iraq. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers and continue working to bring them home to their families.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank each of the Marines we just welcomed home for their valor and service, and I remind my colleagues that the freedoms we hold dear depend on the courage and honor of U.S. troops like those who follow the example set by the Mad Ghosts of the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment.

## ROBERT MATSUI COURTHOUSE RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to name the United States courthouse in Sacramento, California after my dear friend and our beloved former colleague, Bob Matsui, who passed away so suddenly on New Year's night.

Time and time again, Bob's constituents elected him to serve as their Representative in the United States Congress. As all of us know, he rose to national prominence as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and as the first Asian American in leadership of the Congress.

Bob was a living combination of intellect and passion—someone who understood the complexities of the Social Security system, and who never forgot what it meant to the lives of America's seniors. As an architect for a better America, Bob expanded opportunities for our country's children, built a more secure future, and protected precious freedoms for all of us.

In our more than 30 years of friendship, I deeply admired Bob's personal courage. De-

spite being imprisoned in an internment camp as a very young boy during World War II, Bob always had hope in the promise of America. He loved America enough to want to make it better. In fact, he worked tirelessly to pass legislation that awarded payments and an apology from the government to Japanese Americans who had been sent to internment camps.

When it came to politics, Bob was a maestro, orchestrating campaigns across the country that addressed the aspirations of the American people, particularly on his signature issues of economic opportunity, civil liberties, and retirement security.

It seems like only yesterday that Bob was among us, doing the people's work here in Congress. Bob's spirit and energy have been greatly missed. We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend and colleague, but we are fortunate to have his wife Doris here to continue and build on Bob's outstanding work.

President Bush rightly called him a "dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity." I know that our friends on the other side of the aisle miss Bob as well, and join in paying him this tribute.

Bob Matsui was a true patriot who had a dream for a better America. I urge my colleagues to support naming this courthouse in his beloved Sacramento in his honor.

## TRIBUTE TO TENNESSEE WILLIAMS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

### HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of playwright Tennessee Williams and the University of the South.

In 1983, following the death of the great American playwright, Tennessee Williams, the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, received the most generous bequest of the playwright in honor of his grandfather, Walter E. Dakin. Since then the university, known as Sewanee, utilizing the income from the bequest and subsequent revenues from the hundreds of productions of Tennessee's award-winning plays, has established the Sewanee Writers Conference, which supports the work of emerging writers in all disciplines. In addition, the university has constructed the Tennessee Williams Center, a monument to the vision and craftsmanship of the late playwright, where each year gifted young writers develop their talents aided by artists from all over the world who visit the center as Tennessee Williams Fellows in Theatre.

This month, the Tennessee Williams Festival, an annual event featuring new works by established artists as well as students in the university, will present the premieres of two important theatrical productions.

The first, The Poetry of Tennessee Williams, will bring to dramatic life the poems of the great playwright. In the poems, we often hear "Tom" Williams at his most intimate and lyrical. Audiences will discover this powerful aspect of Williams' artistic life, very much the work of a master dramatist and storyteller.

The second, The Cherokee Lottery, is adapted from the book of the same name by